

and transporting said disc to said play station, lowering to a lowered position said disc at said play station for play, raising to the raised position said disc from said play station after play and transporting it to the discard station and lowering and releasing said disc at said discard station, wherein said transporting means includes means for lowering said disc to an intermediate position during transport thereof between stations and means associated with each station for registering said transporting means with each associated station when said disc is in the intermediate position.

2. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 1, wherein said transporting means includes a rotatably mounted driving member having a cam member thereon that is operative to raise and lower said disc upon rotation of said driving member.

3. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 2, wherein said transporting means includes a driven member frictionally engaging said driving member, said driven member being operative to cause said transporting means to transport said disc between stations.

4. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 3, wherein said driving member is operative to rotate with respect to said driven member when said transporting means is registered at one of said stations by said registering means.

5. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 1, wherein said transporting means includes means including a rotatable cam member for raising and lowering a disc as it is transported from station to station.

6. A digital disc changer, comprising:  
means at a play position for playing back information recorded on a digital disc; and

means for transporting a disc from a first position to the play position and then to a second position, said transporting means including means for sequentially lifting the disc from said first position, transporting the disc to the play position, lowering the disc at the play position, lifting the disc from the play position, transporting the disc to the second position and lowering the disc at the second position; wherein said transporting means includes a carousel and wherein said transporting means is operative to raise and lower said carousel to thereby raise and lower said disc.

7. A digital disc changer for sequentially playing a plurality of digital discs, comprising:

a loading station having means for receiving a plurality of digital discs in a stacked relationship to form a stack of discs to be played;

a play station having means for sequentially receiving and playing discs from said stack;

a discard station having means for receiving discs from said play station; and

means including a robot arm for lifting a disc from the top of said stack, transporting the disc to the play station and lowering it at the play station for play, lifting the disc from the play station after play, transporting the disc to the discard station and releasing the disc at the discard station and wherein each of said digital discs has a central aperture and wherein said robot arm includes means for engaging said aperture for lifting and transporting said disc, wherein said robot arm is driven via a clutch having a driving member and a driven member frictionally engaging said driving member wherein said driving member includes means for raising and

lowering said robot arm upon rotation of said driving member.

8. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 7, wherein said robot arm moves in a circular motion and has an axis of rotation disposed equidistant from said loading station, said play station and said discard station.

9. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 7, wherein said raising and lowering means includes a cam.

10. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 7, wherein said driven member is mechanically coupled to said robot arm and is operative to move the robot arm.

11. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 10, wherein said driving member makes a single complete revolution each time a disc is transported between two adjacent stations.

12. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 11, wherein a disc is moved from the play station to the discard station and another disc is moved from the loading station to the play station during a changing cycle, and wherein said driven member is rotated a single complete revolution during the changing cycle.

13. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 12 further including means for registering said robot arm at each of said stations.

14. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 11, wherein said robot arm is rotated a single complete revolution during a changing cycle.

15. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 14, wherein said driving member is rotated three complete revolutions during a changing cycle.

16. A digital disc changer for sequentially playing a plurality of digital discs, comprising:

a loading station having means for receiving a plurality of digital discs in a stacked relationship to form a stack of discs to be played;

a play station having means for sequentially receiving and playing discs from said stack;

a discard station having means for receiving discs from said play station; and

means including a robot arm for lifting a disc from the top of said stack, transporting the disc to the play station and lowering it at the play station for play, lifting the disc from the play station after play, transporting the disc to the discard station and releasing the disc at the discard station and wherein each of said digital discs has a central aperture and wherein said robot arm includes means for engaging said aperture for lifting and transporting said disc,

wherein said engaging means includes one or more engaging members that frictionally engage said central aperture and are resiliently biased to exert an outwardly directed radial force against said disc;

wherein said loading station includes an elongated stacking spindle about which discs may be stacked, said spindle being mounted for movement along its longitudinal axis and resiliently biased to an extended position wherein said spindle enters the central aperture of a disc, said spindle being movable along its longitudinal axis by said pick-up head to a retracted position out of said central aperture to permit said engaging members to engage said central aperture;

wherein said discard station includes means for urging said engaging member or members suffi-